

when we are considering a few generations of a single family. But it is fallacious in that it emphasizes direct succession, and conceals from us the immense importance of collateral interconnection. We shall appreciate its deceptive^{ness} if we consider the course of reproduction with reference to direct succession only. The number of our ancestors doubles in each generation, and if we go back twenty generations the forbears of each of us must number a million. But the population of that time would not have sufficed to provide ancestors in this number for more than a few persons now existing, and it is obvious that, owing to extensive intermixture of lines, a vast number of the present inhabitants of the British Isles must have ancestors in common. Where free intermarriage is checked by law or custom a line propagates itself still more directly by the union of blood relations. The ancestry of the German Emperor might have included 4,096 individuals during the last twelve generations : as a matter of fact less than 550 persons within this period contributed to his birth, in so many cases have individuals filled several places in the genealogical scheme, owing to the intermarriage of more or less distant cousins. It is easy to comprehend how in these circumstances family peculiarities of strength or weakness would be^{ne} accentuated. But such restrictions upon

intermarriage have
not been general; and in the past there
has. more-
over, been extensive intermixture of
blood by
illegitimate connections. So it has
come about
that, speaking generally, a race may be
likened to
a family, in that its propagation tends
to repress
divergences from a type or standard.
and to pro-
duce a racial uniformity.